

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES
OF
PUBLIC RESERVATIONS

1893



PRINTED FOR THE TRUSTEES BY
GEO. T. BLISS, 741 FRANKLIN STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

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OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION,
1893.

President.

HON. GEORGE F. HOAR, Worcester.

Vice-President.

HON. WILLIAM S. SHURTLEFF, Springfield.

Standing Committee.

PHILIP A. CHASE, Lynn, *Chairman.*

CHARLES S. SARGENT, Brookline.

HENRY P. WALCOTT, Cambridge.

GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, 89 State St., Boston, *Treasurer.*

CHARLES ELIOT, Brookline, *Secretary.*

FREDERICK L. AMES, Easton.

FRANCIS H. APPLETON, Lynnfield.

FRANKLIN CARTER, Williamstown.

GEORGE W. CHASE, North Adams.

CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, Northampton.

CHARLES R. CODMAN, Cotuit.

ELISHA S. CONVERSE, Malden.

DELORAINÉ P. COREY, Malden.

CHARLES H. DALTON, Boston.

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT, Salem.

J. D. W. FRENCH, North Andover.

E. B. GILLET, Westfield.

J. EVARTS GREENE, Worcester.

JAMES S. GRINNELL, Greenfield.

AUGUSTUS HEMENWAY, Canton.

NATHANIEL T. KIDDER, Milton.

HENRY M. LOVERING, Taunton.

GEORGE C. MANN, Jamaica Plain.

HENRY L. PARKER, Worcester.

CHARLES S. RACKEMANN, Milton.
 WILLIAM R. ROBESON, Lenox.
 JOHN ROBINSON, Salem.
 JOHN J. RUSSELL, Plymouth.
 LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, Newton.
 NATHANIEL S. SHALER, Tisbury.
 GEORGE SHELDON, Deerfield.
 DANIEL D. SLADE, Newton.
 JOSEPH TUCKER, Pittsfield.
 GEORGE H. TUCKER, Pittsfield.
 FRANCIS A. WALKER, Boston.
 WILLIAM WHITING, Holyoke.
 MOSES WILLIAMS, Brookline.

FOUNDERS.

Miss ELLEN CHASE, Boston.

*Mrs. FANNY FOSTER TUDOR, Boston.

LIFE ASSOCIATES.

Frederick L. Ames, Boston.
 Francis Brooks, Boston.
 Mrs. Francis Brooks, Boston.
 Henry Brooks, West Medford.
 Peter C. Brooks, Boston.
 Shepherd Brooks, Boston.
 George A. Farlow, Boston.
 John M. Forbes, Milton.
 H. H. Hunnewell, Boston.

E. S. Horsford, Cambridge.
 Miss M. C. Jackson, Boston.
 N. T. Kidder, Milton.
 W. C. Loring, Boston.
 Mrs. John C. Phillips, Boston.
 Charles S. Sargent, Brookline.
 John E. Thayer, South Lancaster.
 William Whiting, Holyoke.
 George Wigglesworth, Boston.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS, CHAPTER 352, ACTS OF 1891.

SECTION 1. Frederick L. Ames, Philip A. Chase, Christopher Clarke, Charles R. Codman, Elisha S. Converse, George F. Hoar, John J. Russell, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles S. Sargent, Nathaniel S. Shaler, George Sheldon, William S. Shurtleff, George H. Tucker, Francis A. Walker, George Wigglesworth, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of The Trustees of Public Reservations, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, arranging, maintaining, and opening to the public, under suitable regulations, beautiful and historical places and tracts of land within this Commonwealth, with the powers and privileges and subject to the duties set forth in chapter one hundred and fifteen of the Public Statutes and in such other general laws as now are or hereafter may be in force relating to such corporations; but said corporation shall have no capital stock.

SECT. 2. Said corporation may acquire and hold by grant, gift, devise, purchase, or otherwise real estate such as it may deem worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of the public, but not exceeding one million dollars in value, and such other property, both real and personal, as may be necessary or proper to support or promote the objects of the corporation, but not exceeding in the aggregate the further sum of one million dollars.

SECT. 3. All personal property held by said corporation, and all lands which it may cause to be opened and kept open to the public, and all lands which it may acquire and hold with this object in view, shall be exempt from taxation in the same manner and to the same extent as the property of literary, benevolent, charitable, and scientific institutions incorporated within this Commonwealth is now exempt by law; but no lands so acquired and held and not open to the public shall be so exempt from taxation for a longer period than two years. Said corporation shall never make any division or dividend of or from its property or income among its members.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

BY-LAWS OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

ARTICLE I.

OF MEMBERS.

The members of the corporation shall be residents of Massachusetts, and their number shall not exceed fifty.

The Standing Committee may, if it sees fit, nominate persons to membership by inserting the names of candidates upon the notice or warning of any meeting. The election shall take place at any meeting subsequent to such notice, and shall be by ballot upon the names proposed by the Standing Committee; and any person who receives the votes of two-thirds of the members present and voting shall, on his acceptance in writing of his election, be declared and enrolled a member of the corporation. Membership may be terminated by resignation, and shall be terminated by failure for three successive years to attend the annual meeting; but in the latter case the Standing Committee may by vote suspend the operation of this rule when it sees best.

ARTICLE II.

OF FOUNDERS, LIFE ASSOCIATES AND CONTRIBUTORS.

All persons from whom the corporation shall receive real or personal property to the value of one thousand dollars or more shall be permanently enrolled as Founders.

All persons not entitled to be enrolled as Founders, from whom the corporation shall receive real or personal property to the value of one hundred dollars or more, shall be enrolled during life as Life Associates.

All persons, societies, or corporations not entitled to be enrolled as Founders or Life Associates, from whom the corporation shall receive one or more dollars, shall be enrolled as contributors for the year in which payment of such sum is made.

ARTICLE III.

OF MEETINGS.

1. The annual meeting of the corporation shall be held on the last Wednesday in January in Boston or at such other city or town in the Commonwealth, and at such time and place, as the Standing Committee may determine. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of not less than seven members, but a majority of the members present and voting may adjourn any meeting from time to time until the business shall have been finished.

In the event of the annual meeting, by mistake or otherwise, not being called and held as herein prescribed, the Standing Committee shall order a special meeting to be called and held in lieu of and for the purposes of the annual meeting.

Special meetings of the corporation may be called by the Standing Committee to meet at any time and place. A quorum at a special meeting shall consist of not less than seven members.

2. At all meetings the President shall take the chair as soon as a quorum is present, and the record of the preceding meeting shall then be read, unless such reading is dispensed with by the unanimous consent of those present. After which at all special meetings the business for which the meeting was called shall be transacted, and at the annual meeting the order of business shall be as follows:—

First.—The unfinished business and the assignments of the last meeting shall be announced by the Secretary to the President, and taken up in order.

Second.—The Secretary shall be called on to submit a written report of the doings of the Standing Committee for the year ending with the previous 31st of December.

Third.—The Treasurer shall be called upon to submit a written report of his doings for the year ending with the previous 31st of December, and the financial condition of the corporation at that date.

Fourth.—The Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts shall be called on for a report.

Fifth.—Any special committee which may have been appointed during the year shall be called on to report.

Sixth.—If the Standing Committee shall have proposed changes

in the By-laws, the same shall be voted upon, as provided in Article VII.

Seventh.— If the Standing Committee shall have made any nominations to membership in the corporation, an election shall be held as provided in Article I.

Eighth.— An election of officers for the ensuing year shall be held, as provided in Article IV., Section 1.

Ninth.— On the announcement of the vote the newly elected President shall take the chair, and shall give the members present an opportunity to present new business.

Tenth.— The newly elected President shall appoint a committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

ARTICLE IV.

OF OFFICERS.

1. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be *ex-officiis* members of the Standing Committee, which shall consist of five persons in all. The officers and the Standing Committee shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the corporation, an adjournment thereof, or at a meeting in lieu of such annual meeting, as above provided; and they shall hold their offices for one year, or until others are duly chosen and qualified in their stead. Any vacancy occurring in any of the above offices from death, resignation, or inability shall be filled by the Standing Committee at their next regular meeting or at a special meeting to be called for the purpose before such regular meeting.

2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the corporation. If he is absent, the Vice-President, and, if the Vice-President is also absent, a President *pro tempore*, chosen by hand vote of the members of the corporation present, shall preside, and shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the President.

3. The Secretary shall warn the members of all meetings of the corporation, according as he may be directed by votes of the Standing Committee. He shall call the meetings of the Standing Committee as he may be directed by the chairman of the committee or on the request in writing of any two members thereof. He shall carry on all the correspondence of the corporation not otherwise provided for, and shall, when the correspondence is of

importance, preserve copies of the letters sent and the original letters received, for transmission with his records to his successor in office. He shall keep an exact record of all meetings of the corporation and of the Standing Committee, with the names of the members present, entering in full all reports of committees which may be accepted by either body, unless otherwise directed.

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee he shall make a written report of the doings of that body for the year ending on the previous 31st of December; and, if the report is approved, he shall present it at the annual meeting of the corporation.

4. The Treasurer shall, when directed, as provided in the next paragraph, make disbursements; and he shall also collect all moneys due to the corporation, and shall keep regular and faithful accounts of all the moneys and funds of the corporation which shall come into his hands and of all receipts and expenditures connected with the same, which accounts shall always be open to the inspection of members of the corporation. He shall make no investments and pay no moneys without either the approval of a majority of the Standing Committee or else of such officer or committee as said Standing Committee shall appoint to act for it in these matters.

At the January meeting of the Standing Committee he shall make a written report of his doings for the year ending on the previous 31st of December; and, if his report is approved, he shall present it at the annual meeting of the corporation.

ARTICLE V.

OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee shall, at its first meeting after the annual meeting of the corporation in each year, elect a chairman, whose duty it shall be to preside at all meetings of the committee. In his absence a chairman *pro tempore* may be chosen by hand vote.

The Standing Committee shall meet at least once in every month, and a quorum shall consist of not less than three members.

The Standing Committee may nominate or refuse to nominate new members of the corporation, may accept or decline gifts offered to the corporation, may approve or disapprove investments or expenditures proposed by the Treasurer, may approve or disap-

prove all bills against the corporation, may appoint sub-committees of their number, may appoint and remove agents, may engage whatever assistance is needed to administer the affairs of the corporation, may designate such agents and employees by such titles as they may deem proper, and, in general, may exercise all the executive powers of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE SEAL.

The corporate seal shall be a circular, flat-faced die of about an inch and a half in diameter, with the name of the corporation, the year of its organization, the word "Massachusetts," and the figure of a pine-tree so engraved on its face that it can be embossed on paper by pressure.

ARTICLE VII.

OF AMENDMENTS.

At any annual meeting of the corporation, or at a special meeting called for the purpose, these By-laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that notice of such proposed change shall have been given in the call of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

*To the Trustees of Public Reservations and their Associates
and Contributors :*

The year 1893 has been one of financial distress and uncertainty, and no new trusts have devolved upon your honorable body. Virginia Wood, in Stoneham, received in trust from Mrs. Fanny Foster Tudor in 1892, has been carefully guarded; and the beautiful pictures presented by its mingled oaks, pines, and hemlocks, have suffered no injury. One fire which started upon adjacent land was put out before it reached the Wood.

Your committee has kept interested watch of the two projects for the better conservation of certain scenery in behalf of which the members of the committee appeared in support of petitions from your Board before the General Court of 1893.

With respect to the Province Lands at the extremity of Cape Cod, concerning which your committee made a report to the legislature, the General Court enacted a bill which provided for the ultimate acquisition by the townspeople of Provincetown of all the occupied parts of the lands in question, and the permanent reservation of all the remaining portion (some two thousand acres) in the charge of the State Commissioners of Harbors and Lands.

With respect to the project for the acquisition, through the concerted action of numerous municipalities of several large public reserves in the district surrounding Boston, the legislature of 1893 passed an act creating a permanent Metropolitan Park Commission equipped with the power of eminent domain, and with one million dollars to spend in

buying lands. This commission, with the Hon. Charles Francis Adams as its Chairman, is already engaged in securing large forest reservations in the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Fells; and it is understood that a large part of Revere Beach will also be obtained. In addition to its other powers the new commission may accept gifts of land (or money wherewith to purchase or take lands) lying within the limits of the defined metropolitan district, and the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars contributed by Mrs. Elisha Atkins and her son, Mr. E. F. Atkins, of Belmont, toward the price of the so-called Beaver Brook reservation, has already been received. This reservation will include not only the falls of Beaver Brook,—celebrated by James Russell Lowell in one of his early poems,—but also the Great Oaks, which, it will be remembered, a friend of your honorable Board endeavored to purchase two years ago for presentation to your Board in trust. The public is to be congratulated in that the Metropolitan Park Commission, through its power of eminent domain, has been able to accomplish that which your honorable Board, lacking that power, could not carry through. It is to be hoped that many citizens of the metropolitan district will imitate the public spirit of Mrs. and Mr. Edwin F. Atkins, and so enable either the local park commissions or the Metropolitan Board to preserve for all time many of the still numerous scenes of natural beauty near Boston.

Within the metropolitan district your offspring, the Metropolitan Park Commission, will henceforth exercise the functions which your honorable body was first designed to exercise throughout the Commonwealth. Outside of the metropolitan district your Board remains the only ready instrument through which the admirers of any beautiful or historical spot, no matter how it may be situated, can provide for its preservation and perpetual care. You are not anxious that trusts should be imposed upon you rather than upon town or city park commissions. To the local park commissions should be given the care of every spot they

will accept. You simply stand in readiness to assume the charge of such places as cannot otherwise be permanently preserved from harm. You are prepared to assume, wherever suitable endowments are forthcoming, the charge of lands lying upon municipal boundaries or in two or more townships; lands too steep for use, but good to look at; strips of land lying between roads or railroads and streams or ponds, and many other sorts of places which local park commissions would not think of accepting. The much-to-be desired permanency of the attractiveness of seaside and inland pleasure resorts, and the perpetuation of the charm of rural neighborhoods, can be assured only by the safe-guarding of the main elements of their attractiveness or charm,—only by the successful conservation of the local scenery of sea-fronts, lakesides, riverbanks, roadsides, ravines and hill-tops. In any given neighborhood such strips and blocks of wild land as most need to be reserved are neither numerous nor expensive. The first cost and the endowment of such reserved lands in many a township of Massachusetts would be well within the means of one generous giver. We commend to the well-to-do people of the State the careful study of their neighborhoods with the idea of making reservations of this particularly valuable kind.

In October your committee was interested to learn of the publication in the English *Spectator* of a letter descriptive of the powers and purposes of the "Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations," followed by several letters indicating a desire for the establishment in that country of an organization endowed with powers similar to those with which the General Court of Massachusetts clothed your honorable Board in 1891. We quote a portion of one of these letters as follows :—

The government spends many thousands a year in buying beautiful pictures for the National Gallery. Why should it not also spend a certain sum in buying beautiful views, and so preserving them forever for the enjoyment of the nation? There is certainly nothing chimerical or essentially absurd about the proposal; and a beautiful piece of natural

scenery can often be got for hundreds, while thousands are given for the picture. . . .

But it may be said, What do you mean by buying views? What we mean is either buying the freehold of pieces of beautiful natural scenery in danger of being destroyed by building or some other means, or else the acquisition of such rights over the land in question as will secure the preservation of what is beautiful in it. It is best, however, to say specifically what we should like to see done. Why should not Parliament create a body of trustees like the Trustees of the National Gallery, empowered to protect the natural beauties of the United Kingdom? To this body would be made an annual grant, and it would be the duty of the trustees to lay out their grant to the best possible advantage. They would not, of course, rush about the country, bidding for this or that mountain, lake, river, castle, or waterfall at random; nor would they be given any power of compulsion. They would act simply as the Trustees of the National Gallery act. Whenever a good natural picture came into the market, they would buy it. For example, when Snowdon was up for sale, as it was the other day, the trustees would have made an effort to acquire it for the nation. Indeed, under such circumstances, they would have been justified in going to Parliament for an extra grant, just as the National Gallery went to Parliament when they had an opportunity to get a genuine "Raphael" in good condition. According to a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* the waterfall at Lodore is now for sale. There, again, would be an opportunity. To mark out certain areas in the abstract and to buy them compulsorily would be a very expensive business; but, by proceeding as we have suggested, the Trustees of the Natural Gallery might acquire a first-class collection at very reasonable rates.

After suggesting that the proposed trustees should have power to lease upon long terms and possibly to sell the "vesture of the soil," the writer concludes as follows:—

Except in cases like that of Richmond Hill fine scenery goes for extraordinarily low prices. Agriculturally, it is generally poor land,—mountainous and wild and worth little or nothing to the farmer. Hence it need not be supposed that our plan would ruin the treasury. A well-advised Board of Trustees, with £100,000 a year to spend, would soon acquire scenery rights of a kind that would be most beneficial to the public. Meantime there is a chance for the millionaire. While the State is deliberating, let him try the experiment. When a new Mrs. Rylands is wondering how she can best benefit the nation, let her consider the plan of giving it a gallery of natural pictures,—a gallery which can never be destroyed by fire, and containing pictures which never peel and crack.

In December the following paragraph appeared in American newspapers : —

“The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty” is an association which has just been organized in England, which has for its object the preservation of places that are of value to the nation on account of their natural beauty, their historic associations, or any other desirable quality. Among the members of the provisional council are the Duke of Westminster, Lord Dufferin, Lord Rosebery, Sir Frederick Leighton, Professor Huxley, the Provost of Eton, the master of Trinity, Mr. Walter Besant, Miss Octavia Hill, and a number of other persons distinguished in art, letters, or practical knowledge of affairs. From time to time philanthropists make over to the nation, or to some particular town or district, bits of property of the kind here described. But the presentation of the gift is not always easy, and sometimes is very troublesome, owing to the difficulty of finding suitable trustees. This new association has been devised to act as general trustee for all property intended for the use and enjoyment of the nation at large. Its function is to accept from private owners of property gifts of places of interest or beauty, which can only be made if a perpetual custodian and administrator can be found. It will be incorporated under the joint stock companies act, and will be endowed with special privileges in consideration of the responsibilities which it assumes.

To this excellent statement of the main purposes of our American as well as the English Board of Trustees your committee need only add the reminder that, if Massachusetts possesses no such richly historical treasures as will gradually pass into the keeping of the English Board, she does possess great wealth of beautiful, though now threatened, natural scenery and an interesting, though rapidly disappearing, store of archæological and historical sites, such as Indian camps and graves, border forts, and colonial or literary landmarks. Your Board is empowered and is fully prepared to assume the legal title, and, if need be, the whole care of such places. It remains for those who really desire the preservation of these places to come forward to their rescue at once.

For the encouragement of givers we take pleasure in printing in Appendix I. a list (unfortunately incomplete) of those who have given lands for public reservations in Massachusetts up to this time. For the information of persons

who may be interested we also print in Appendix II. a table of the contents of the previous reports of your committee, copies of which are to be found in the public libraries of the State. Appendix III. is a report on the public reservations of the shore towns of Massachusetts, compiled by our agent, Mr. H. B. Hastings ; and Appendix IV. presents a summary of the legal rights of the public in the seashores of the State.

The above report is respectfully submitted.

PHILIP A. CHASE,
CHARLES S. SARGENT,
HENRY P. WALCOTT,
GEORGE WIGGLESWOTH,
CHARLES ELIOT,

Standing Committee.

BOSTON, Jan. 1, 1894.

GEORGE WIGGLESWORTH, *Treasurer*, IN ACCOUNT WITH
THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATIONS.

From Jan. 2, 1893, to Jan. 1, 1894.

Dr.	GENERAL ACCOUNT.	Cr.
1893. Jan. 2. To Balance	\$1,090.72	1893. By Cash :
Subscriptions during 1893,	50.00	Printing, stamps, etc. . . \$443.34
Interest received from State St. Safe Deposit & Trust Co. to Jan. 1, 1894	30.14	Secretary's expenses . . 27.88
	<u>\$1,170.86</u>	Balance 699.64
		<u>\$1,170.86</u>
1894. Jan. 1. To Balance . . .	699.64	

Dr.	AGENT'S ACCOUNT.	Cr.
1893. Jan. 2. To Balance . . .	\$341.67	1893. Aug. 8. By Cash paid H. B. Hastings \$100.00
	<u>\$341.67</u>	Balance 241.67
		<u>\$341.67</u>
1894. Jan. 1. To Balance . . .	\$241.67	

Dr.	VIRGINIA WOOD FUND.	Cr.
1893. Jan. 2. To Balance	\$122.15	By Cash :
Interest on \$2,000 Great Northern Railway 4% Gold Bonds . .	80.00	Paid for care of Woods for 1892 \$25.00
	<u>\$202.15</u>	Paid Sheriff for posting notice 7.00
		Balance 170.15
		<u>\$202.15</u>
1894. Jan. 1. To Balance . . .	\$170.15	

Dr.

PROVINCE LANDS.

Cr.

1893.		1893.	
Feb. 24.		Jan. 2.	By Balance . . . \$802.83
To Cash received from the			Cash 97.05
Commonwealth	\$899.88		
	<u>\$899.88</u>		<u>\$899.88</u>

The subscriptions for general purposes have been as follows:—

Louis Robson	\$5.00
Mary Sophia Walker	10.00
Appalachian Mountain Club	25 00
John C. Braman	10.00

The undersigned have examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer of the Trustees of Public Reservations for the year 1893, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

CHARLES S. RACKEMANN,
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE,
JAMES S. GRINNELL,

Auditing Committee.

MAY, 1894.

APPENDIX I.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE DONORS OF THE PUBLIC RESERVATIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

THE ORIGINAL PROPRIETORS OR "COMMONERS" of the following townships (among others) set apart lands for Training Fields which have survived as public reservations unto the present day: Boston, Cambridge, Dighton, Harvard, Hingham, Littleton, Lynn, Manchester, Methuen, Newbury, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Rowley, Salem, Sandisfield, Shrewsbury, Taunton, Wilbraham.

JOHN B. and HATTIE C. NEWHALL, $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

AMOS F. BREED, $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

HEIRS of PHILIP CHASE, 4 acres.

Dr. EDWARD NEWHALL, 8 acres.

PAMELIA B. MUDGE, 5 acres.

CHARLES F. COFFIN, 18 acres.

JAMES PURINTON, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

TIMOTHY A. NEWHALL, 2 acres.

WILLIAM O. NEWHALL, 7 acres.

DAVID H. SWEETSER, EDWIN WALDEN, LYMAN B. FRAZIER, and AZA A. BREED, 2 acres.

ALVIN R. RICHARDSON, 4 acres.

STEPHEN N. BREED, 8 acres.

EZRA BAKER, 6 acres.

DAVID H. SWEETSER, MARIANNA SWEETSER, and CHARLES S. SWEETSER, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

SAMUEL J. HOLLIS, 7 acres.

PHILIP A. CHASE, wolf pits (A.D. 1635), 3 acres.

AARON and IRVING NEWHALL, 2 acres.

CHARLES S. INGALLS, $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

All of the above is in Lynn Woods Reservation.

JAMES R. NEWHALL, Saddler's Rock, 1 acre.

HARRISON and HOWARD M. NEWHALL, Newhall's Cliff, 1 acre.

THOMAS SMITH, 1680, $\frac{3}{4}$ acre to Wenham "for a training-place."

OLIVER CARTER, 1754, 2 acres to Leominster for a training field.

- NEHEMIAH CARPENTER and JEREMIAH HARTSHORN, 1783, 4 acres to Foxboro for a common.
- SAMUEL JONES, 1784, $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres to the Congregational Society for a common.
- HENRY and SARAH TISDALE, 1793, 3 acres to Dover for a common.
- DANIEL JONES, 1800, 1 acre to Bellingham.
- WILLIAM BARTLETT and others, 1800, 6 acres to Newburyport.
- MOSES BROWN, 1810, 1 acre to Newburyport for a public square.
- SETH BANISTER, , 5 acres to Brookfield.
- DANIEL BROWN, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Cheshire.
- ESSEX MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 1848-53-73, 34 acres to Lawrence.
- JOSIAH FRENCH, 1857, $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Braintree.
- H. W. CUSHMAN, , $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Bernardston.
- LOWELL EAMES, 1854, $\frac{1}{8}$ acre to Framingham.
- SIDNEY BROOKS, , $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Harwich.
- JONATHAN and ELIJAH DWIGHT, , 3 acres to Belchertown.
- GILBERT, , 9 acres to Berkley.
- CAMPFIELD, , 1 acre to Freetown.
- MOSES BATES, 1856, $\frac{1}{8}$ acre to Plymouth.
- SEDGEWICK family, , 8 acres to the Laurel Hill Association of Stockbridge.
- CYRUS W. FIELD, , 2 acres to Stockbridge.
- STIMPSON WOODWARD, 1881, 1 acre (including a spring) to Taunton.
- H. H. HUNNEWELL, , 20 acres to Wellesley.
- NATHANIEL MORTON and others, 1889, 150 acres of woodland to Plymouth.
- GEORGE W. BRAMBALL, 1892, a part of 10 acres to Plymouth.
- CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, 1885, 83 acres of bay-shore woodlands to Quincy.
- HENRY H. FAXON, 1885, 28 acres of hill land to Quincy.
- HEIRS of NATHAN TUFTS, , a part of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Somerville, including an ancient powder-house.
- LUTHER HILL, , 25 acres to Spencer.
- EDWARD L. DAVIS and HORACE H. BIGELOW, 1884, 111 acres to Worcester.
- STEPHEN SALISBURY, 1887, 18 acres to Worcester.
- DAVID S. MESSENGER, 1888, $\frac{3}{4}$ acre to Worcester.
- THOMAS H. DODGE, 1890, 13 acres to Worcester.
- EVERETT H. BARNEY, , $104\frac{1}{2}$ acres of woodland and ponds to Springfield.
- MOSES FIELD and ELLA F. ALLEN, , $14\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Springfield.
- THEODORE A. HAVEMEYER, , $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres on the bank of the Connecticut River to Springfield.
- IDA M. SOUTHWORTH, , $6\frac{1}{8}$ acres to Springfield.
- MARVIN CHAPIN, , $10\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Springfield.
- DANIEL J. MARSH, , $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Springfield.
- JAMES KIRKHAM, JOHN OLMSTED, JOHN D. MCKNIGHT, WALTER H. WESSEN, , $38\frac{3}{4}$ acres to Springfield.
- ORICK H. GREENLEAF, , $70\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Springfield.
- ANONYMOUS GIVERS, , 51 acres to Springfield.
- HOLYOKE WATER POWER COMPANY, 1861, $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres to Holyoke; 1877, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to Holyoke; 1884 and 1890, $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Holyoke.
- CHARLES H. HUBBARD, 1892, 15 acres to Weston.
- EDGEWORTH COMPANY, 1862, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Malden.
- JOHN W. FIELD, , 4 acres to the Trustees of Sanderson Academy for a common playground.

- W. A. HOUGHTON, 1882, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Berlin to preserve an ancient powder-house.
- MUNROE MORSE and SALLY METCALF, 1879, 3 acres to Franklin.
- Mrs. WM. MIXTER and others, , $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Hardwick.
- HEIRS of HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, , 1 acre to the Longfellow Memorial Association for a public garden.
- CHARLES RIVER EMBANKMENT COMPANY, , 30 acres to Cambridge for a riverside esplanade.
- JOHN E. GALE, , 1 acre to Haverhill.
- SAMUEL WHITE, , $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to Haverhill.
- ELIZABETH ROGERS, , 29 acres to Lowell.
- HENRY LEE and others, , 7 acres to Manchester for the preservation of the woods along the Essex road.
- URIEL CROCKER, , $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Marblehead, being a commanding rock overlooking the harbor.
- J. J. H. GREGORY, , 1 acre to Marblehead, being an ancient fort.
- D. W. GOOCH, , $4\frac{1}{8}$ acres to Melrose.
- HEIRS of S. E. SEWALL, , 8 acres of woodland to Melrose.
- S. A. KEMP, 1880, 8 acres on a hill to North Adams.
- ABRAHAM BURBANK, , 40 acres to Pittsfield.
- J. HENRY STICKNEY, , $\frac{1}{5}$ acre to Pilgrim Society, being Pilgrim Wharf so called.
- AUGUSTUS HEMENWAY, , 40 acres to the Blue Hills Reservation of the Metropolitan Park Commission.
- HENRY L. PIERCE, , 40 acres to the Blue Hills Reservation of the Metropolitan Park Commission.

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[After photographs by W. H. SMITH, Provincetown.]

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APPENDIX III.

A REPORT UPON THE EXTENT AND CONDI- TION OF PUBLIC HOLDINGS IN THE SHORE TOWNS OF MASSACHU- SETTS IN 1893.

THE NORTH SHORE.

SALISBURY.

The only public holdings of the town of Salisbury, so far as I could ascertain, are the ferry landing at Ring's Island and a small triangle near the railroad station, which is the last fragment remaining of the old training-field. The greater width of the highway near this triangle serves also as a reminder of vanished possessions. Many years ago one of the abutters planted a row of apple-trees in the training-field. In time, as his fence required repairing, he made the repairs outside of the apple-trees, to which, with the included land, his title is now undisputed.

Both sides of Salisbury beach were dedicated by the early settlers to public use forever ; but for the past hundred years this beach has been held by a body of men called the Commoners of Salisbury. Two or three years ago the town appointed a committee to investigate the title of the Commoners. This committee, at the time of my visit, had not made its report ; but there seemed to be a vague idea among the people of the town that the title of the Commoners had no good foundation. Whatever their title may originally have been based upon, it is certain that it has been recognized since about 1792, and that the Commoners have paid taxes to the town for about the same period. There would seem to be neither law nor justice in an attempt to dispossess them at this late day. The town would, I should think, much better acquire by purchase some rights upon the shore. Probably the

Commoners would find it conducive to their interests, in the long run, to donate to the town a small portion of the beach, and thus decrease the temptation to trespass, which always exists where the public have no place to which they can resort by right.

Salisbury is a quiet little town, with a wide border of marsh land, a background of low hills, and attractive views of river, sea, and woodland. A curious chain bridge, built in 1710, connects it with Newburyport. Two islands in the river might be utilized as places of public resort; but their location would make them more valuable to Newburyport than to Salisbury.

NEWBURYPORT.

Newburyport has a small but fairly satisfactory system of parks, some of which are very attractive. Washington Park (6 acres), Brown Square (1 acre), and Kent Street Common (2½ acres) remain substantially as described in former reports. There is a prospect that Atkinson Common may soon be improved. As a local organization, the Belleville Improvement Society is trying to awaken public interest in the matter.

There are three public landings,—one, much used by fishermen, at Joppa, and two above the railroad bridge. It is proposed to discontinue one of the latter.

To a visitor it seems rather strange that so little appreciation has been shown of the opportunities which the sea and river afford for health and pleasure. There is, to be sure, a Riverside Park, so called; but it contains only about a quarter of an acre, and is, at present, little more than a dumping-ground.

NEWBURY.

Newbury possesses three public landings,—Thurlow's Bridge Landing, Pine Island, and Old Town Bridge. About half a mile east of the latter is a private landing much used by the townspeople for landing hay; and a petition has been circulated, praying that this be made a public landing.

In a portion of the town known as Byfield the Methodist Church Green answers some of the purposes of a public reservation. Near Byfield factory, one of the earliest factories in America, is a small triangular piece of land containing a band stand. The other holdings, Upper Green, containing a tiny pond, and Lower Green, are as reported last year. Hon. Luther Dame, senator from this district, is endeavoring to have the upper Green improved.

ROWLEY.

Mr. J. Henry Stickney, of Baltimore, to whom the town of Plymouth owes the gift of Pilgrim Wharf, bequeathed to the town of Rowley \$2,000 for the purpose of placing a curb around Rowley Common. The work was done last year at an expense of \$1,199.80. The distance around the common was found to be 1,714 feet, and the area not quite three acres,—a little less than was at first supposed. A row of elms, eight feet inside the curb, adds to the attractiveness of the common, and has formed for many years a valuable barrier against encroachments. In addition to the two smaller commons mentioned in last year's report there is a third small open space near the town hall. All three of these small commons date from the year 1639.

Since the building of the railroad bridge the public landing west of the railroad, on Rowley River, has been of little service. A new private landing and wharf to the east of the bridge has, however, supplied the needs of the people. The reservation for the use of those working on the salt meadow is not called the stock yard, as stated in the last report, but the stack yard, from the stacks of hay sometimes piled there.

IPSWICH.

Ipswich accepted the Park Act some years ago with the intention of securing part of Great Neck for public use; but the opposition of a few influential citizens who feared an increase in their tax bills put a damper on the project, so the only area to which the people have free access is Meeting-house Green in the middle of the town,—a very steep and rocky piece of ground, which is, however, much resorted to in the summer time. It contains perhaps three acres; but the title is in dispute between the church and the town. It is to be hoped that in no case will the people ever be deprived of their privileges there.

The town farm, a tract of about three hundred and fifty acres, has a frontage of perhaps a quarter of a mile on the Rowley River. I was told that formerly Ipswich had considerable public land, but that it had been lost through the indifference—or possibly through the connivance—of town officials years ago. Ipswich is a charming place. Near the centre of the town are some of the most magnificent trees to be seen anywhere. A reservation along the banks of the Ipswich River would add greatly to the attractiveness of

the town ; and that a bit of beach should be secured while it can be bought at a low price, goes without saying.

GLOUCESTER AND ROCKPORT.

Gloucester and Rockport may well be described together, not only because of their situation and their closeness of commercial interests, but because, owing to their having been formerly united, each community has still a claim upon the public landings of the other.

The extent of the fishing industry of Cape Ann early led to the establishment of public landing places. Gloucester, I was told, had once twenty-four public landings, of which less than half now remain. In an inaugural address in 1886 the mayor of Gloucester described eighteen landings, and said :—

“I conclude that some of these landings *cannot now be defined*, that others have been *illegally sold* by the town, that others have been *encroached upon* for a length of time sufficient to give the present occupants a legal claim, and that still others are suffering encroachments which should command our immediate attention.”— *C. Doc. 13*.

What was true in 1886 is to a still greater extent true now. There appear to be to-day only ten landings which clearly belong to the town ; and, of these, several have been encroached upon in the most barefaced manner, notably the Kettle Cove Landing (“No. 18”) at Magnolia. Of this City Engineer Webber said, in 1876,—

“The boundaries of this landing are properly defined, and all persons having encroached thereon are well aware that it is the property of the city.”— *C. Doc. 13*.

In 1885 a similar report was made by City Engineer Overbeck ; but the encroachment continues, the city authorities apparently being afraid to act lest the city should be involved in a lawsuit. The result of this long-continued immunity has emboldened other trespassers ; and last summer a fence was built across the public highway, leading from Western Avenue to the beach, near the Pavilion Hotel. The man who did this made no attempt to show any title to the property. It was simply a barefaced attempt to defraud the people of so much land. After a good deal of indignation on the part of the citizens, and a good deal of hesitation on the part of the authorities, an order was passed to remove this fence. The fence was cut down. No lawsuit followed, and this

outrage will probably not be repeated. One good result of the agitation is that the city may purchase a small plot of land adjoining this highway belonging to the Sidney Mason estate, and thus obtain a more commodious approach to the beach, which at this point is very good.

For many years the people of Gloucester have been accustomed to resort to a place not far from the centre of the town, known as the Stage Fort property, bordering on the shore, and containing the remains of an old fort. Some years ago this property was offered to the city for \$40,000. I have not yet talked with an inhabitant of Gloucester who does not regret that it was not then purchased. Now I am told the city can purchase it for \$80,000; but Gloucester is not wealthy, and even those of its citizens who are in favor of increasing the public holdings seem to think the city cannot afford such valuable residence property. I cannot share this opinion. To me it seems that the wisest economy would dictate the purchase of this land for the public.

There are one or two bits of land belonging to the city which were not mentioned in the last report. One of these lies on the shore near the junction of Western and Essex Avenues. It is the merest fragment of land, and is included in the highway, though separated by a wall from the travelled portion. It affords a fine view of the harbor, and is literally covered with settees. The other reservation is on the top of Governor's Hill, near the railroad station. A small portion of this summit was for some time owned by the city. Recently two other lots have been purchased, so that there is now a total open area of 45,815 square feet. The steep and rocky hillside furnishes a fine outlook, and is evidently much resorted to. It is well provided with settees.

About ten years ago Mr. Isaac Morse gave to the city a well on Western Avenue, on the road to Magnolia, for a public watering place. I could not learn that the city assumes any responsibility for the care of this well.

There is one other neglected space north of the city, called Meeting-house Green, containing about an acre and a half. It is at the corner of Washington and Poplar Streets.

The public landings of the city are in a very unsatisfactory condition. The present city engineer has been directed to mark these landings by proper bounds; but no money is granted for the necessary expense, and so nothing has been done. More courage and firmness than seem thus far to have been manifested need to be exercised with regard to trespassers.

In Rockport the condition of the landings is not dissimilar to that in Gloucester. The town has a large number of landings, supposed to be owned in common with Gloucester. The majority of these landings seem to be encroached on or claimed by individuals. One at Long Beach has been "gobbled," I was told, by the Land's End Associates. But this landing is perfectly well described in the plans in the town records which Mr. Calvin Pool, the town clerk, showed me. The Land Company is comparatively young, and cannot yet have obtained a title by undisputed occupancy. The town should not allow a title thus to be obtained. The only landing I found, which is quite undisputed, is the so-called Back Beach Landing. Here for several hundred feet the road skirts the shore, and the town is the only abutter. There is a good beach with a good view; and, as it is less than five minutes' walk from the business centre, it is likely at some time to be much resorted to. A school-house lot, much reduced in size since 1838, extends along the western side of the road. At one end of the beach has been built an unsightly shanty, which should not be allowed to remain. Cape Pond, in the interior, has been spoken of as a possible source of water supply, in which case it might serve some park purposes. It is already used to some extent by picnic parties.

The rights of Rockport along the shore are still fairly extensive; but, unless the town shows more energy and vigilance, she is likely some day to mourn the loss of them.

Within a few minutes' walk of the centre of population is a tract of land called Norwood's Head. It contains about fourteen acres, is high, breezy, and affords many attractive views of sea and shore. The town would do well to acquire this property at once for future use.

MANCHESTER, BEVERLY, SALEM.

Manchester, Beverly, and Salem were so fully described in the first report of the society that it was not thought necessary at this time to visit them.

MARBLEHEAD.

Marblehead has a number of small breathing-spaces, nearly all well located and attractive. Its Park Commission is alive to the needs of the town, and is disposed to make improvements as

rapidly as possible, but is greatly hampered by lack of money, and by failure on the part of some of the old residents to see any need for the work.

In addition to the holdings mentioned in last year's report, the town has a narrow strip of land running from Atlantic Avenue toward the harbor. The park commissioners have petitioned the town for permission to take the point known as Mason's Rocks, and to add to Crocker Park a small lot of land joining it on the north. The total area asked for is less than an acre, but it would add very much to the value of the park system.

Fort Sewell, loaned by the government for park purposes, has been much abused. The town improvement society has planted shade-trees within the fort; but some of them are dead, and the others look discouraged. At the time of my visit a crowd of half-grown young men were playing ball inside the small enclosure of the fort. The grounds are entirely unsuited to such play; and the result is to dissatisfy the players, and make the fort unsafe for children. While I was examining the place, the crowd of young men stopped their game and endeavored to smash the shutters of the fort, despite the protest of one of their number. I could easily see why the shade-trees thrive no better. It is a misfortune to any town that such hoodlums should represent it in public places. It must have a depressing effect on real estate values.

On the hill-top known as Fountain Park a neat shelter has been built, affording a pleasant view of the harbor and protection against passing showers.

A "West Side Boulevard" has been talked of, to skirt the western shore of the town from Peach's Point to the Salem line. It is believed that the increase in value of the land thus opened up for summer residences would more than repay the expense. For such a boulevard to have its full effect in developing the property, restrictions should be made against the erection of buildings between the boulevard and the water.

On Marblehead Neck is a somewhat unusual condition of affairs. Not many years ago one man owned the whole Neck. In laying out lots for sale, he reserved strips of shore, not for the public, but for the use of the lot-owners. No public roads were ever laid out, so even the streets belong to the former owner of the Neck, Mr. Robert C. Bridges, and are kept in repair by him. The town owns the highway across the isthmus connecting the

Neck with the mainland. It owns also the beach along this highway and a small triangle at the fork of the road. With this triangle, apparently, the rights of the public end. The Neck appears to be practically a private park, across the entrance to which gates might be swung at any moment at the will of the proprietors. No attempt is made to exclude any one, and the public go there freely. "But," says Mr. Bridges, "there's no knowing how much longer they will be allowed to."

SWAMPSCOTT.

It is not quite fair to say of Swampscott, as was said in the last report,—

"It has no public spaces, not even a foot of land (save in the street) where a visitor may stand at high tide and look out upon the ocean."

Swampscott has had for some years around the soldiers' monument a little triangle of green from which the visitor might view the ocean, though it was not, of course, intended for that purpose. There is also, a few rods to the north-east of this monument, a triangular bit of ground between the beach and the highway which, I was told, belonged to the town. This bit of land is rocky, and has a path leading down to the water. There are several short roads which lead to the water's edge. Moreover, the highway in Swampscott follows the beaches pretty closely, and one could hardly ask better views of the ocean than are afforded by a walk along this road. Still, Swampscott has no place of public resort at all commensurate with her opportunities and her wealth; and there is cause for rejoicing in the fact that she has finally begun to be conscious of her shortcomings, and is setting to work to remedy them. The town last spring (1893) accepted the Park Act, and now proposes to acquire a tract of land along the shore adjacent to a similar tract already owned by the city of Lynn. The unsightly buildings on the beach at this point are to be removed, and the two pieces of land combined into a pretty ocean-side park for people of both communities.

Since the acceptance of the Park Act Messrs. D. K. and Leonard Phillips have given to the town, for a school-house, a lot of land containing about two acres situated on Cannon Hill. It is about one hundred and sixty feet above sea-level, with a fine view of the ocean, and could, without much difficulty, be connected with the beach, and thus made part of a very attractive park system.

THE SOUTH SHORE.

COHASSET.

In addition to the common, containing a church built in 1747, Cohasset has two small triangular pieces of land which are pretty well cared for. One, near the "Cove," contains about twenty-five hundred square feet: the other, called Church Park, contains perhaps two thousand square feet.

At the "Cove" a little strip of shore about two hundred feet long is used as a landing-place. There was at one time some talk of purchasing for the town a part of Sandy Beach, and a committee was appointed to consider the matter; but no report was ever made. It seems a pity that a more enthusiastic committee could not have been chosen.

One end of the common has been fenced and planted by Mr. Bates with the permission of the town. It cannot be denied that the planting has been very judiciously done, and the effect is decidedly pleasing; but it would seem to be better policy for the town to plant its own public grounds and build its own fences around them. The effect of the fence and of the planting is to make that part of the common look like a private holding.

SCITUATE.

I was told that there had been no change of importance in Scituate since the issue of the first report.

MARSHFIELD.

About all there is left of Marshfield Common, or training-field, is a little fenced triangle, with some fine trees, between Marshfield post-office and the railroad station. Across the road from this triangle is another small fragment, partly occupied by sheds. The total area may be an acre. There are no public landings, and there is no desire for any, so I was told by the town clerk, Mr. L. P. Hatch.

DUXBURY.

Duxbury has no common, but has several public landings. Formerly the town owned the fine beach to the east of Powder

Point, but this has been sold to a Mr. Wright, who has laid it out in house lots, with a public road on the inside above high-water mark. This arrangement leaves nearly three miles of water open to the public ; for, although the abutters, I suppose, retain the title to this back beach, the people have a right of way along it.

The town elected last year a committee (which at the time of my visit had made no report) to look up the matter of public landings. A landing has been recently laid out north of the new bridge from Powder Point to the beach. Another town landing is located at the point where the Atlantic cable crosses the Back River ; but, from the wording of a sign erected there, I judge that this landing is claimed by Mr. Wright.

In 1890 the village improvement association, called the "Duxbury Rural Society," gave a drinking fountain to the town. Just south of the Bluefish River, and east of the road crossing it, is a lot of land containing about two thousand square feet, formerly occupied by a mill. When the bridge was built across the river, this place was bought, in order to avoid claims for damages. It is held by the town for no particular purpose, and might perhaps be given to the Rural Society for improvement.

In case the Atlantic cable station here should be abandoned, it is provided that that portion of the beach now in use by the cable company shall revert to the town.

Duxbury is a pleasant, restful town, with good educational advantages, and might easily be made very attractive to people of wealth and culture.

PLYMOUTH.

Plymouth has at present the best system of parks south of Boston. It can hardly be called the outgrowth of a popular movement, however, and there is still a good deal of indifference manifested by the townspeople to the benefits of this sort of public holdings. Like most Massachusetts towns, Plymouth has had for many years its common, or training-field ; but only since the gift of Mr. Morton and others in 1889 has the town had anything that could be properly called a park. Morton Park lies on the shore of Billington Sea, a large pond about a mile from the business centre of the town, and contains about one hundred and fifty acres, not including the large water surface of Billington Sea and Little Pond, though the park nearly surrounds the latter.

The surface is pleasantly diversified, and by judicious planting and trimming is becoming each year more beautiful.

Mr. Morton long meditated his project of a free public park at Billington Sea, but nearly ten years passed before he saw his way clear to the accomplishment of his design. When at last he began to negotiate for the land, he found that the principal owner, an aged man, had had for years the same desire, but, owing to age and infirmity, had seen no way to fulfil it. He gladly co-operated with Mr. Morton, thankful that his own hopes had so fair a prospect of realization.

Of course, in a town where until recently land has been assessed at twenty-five cents per acre, no great necessity can have been recognized for "breathing-spaces." Hence many of the townspeople fail to see the use of a park. The chief difficulty encountered by Mr. Morton and his associates is the failure of the voters to see any beauty in such common objects as woods and ponds. Yet the park is having an educative effect, and Mr. Morton's tact and disinterestedness, and the efforts of other public-spirited men, overcome this indifference sufficiently to secure for the maintenance of parks an average annual appropriation of about \$1,000. I doubt if another town in the country gets so much for the money.

After Morton Park, by far the most important possession of Plymouth (except from an historical point of view) is Beach Park, a strip of shore containing about ten acres, situated at the south end of Long Beach, two miles from the village, and readily accessible by street car. This beach had been partially occupied by squatters; but they were induced to part with their claims for nominal sums, and the whole cost to the town of this beach, fourteen hundred feet long, was only \$150, which was paid to reimburse the former occupants for the loss of their buildings. One of the buildings has been kept by the Park Commission, and is utilized as a waiting-room and a shelter from storms.

The other public holdings of the town remain substantially as described in former reports. Burton Park (1 1-2 acres) is a good example of what may be done with unpromising material. Formerly it was an unsightly hillside in which deep gulleys had been washed out by the rains. It has now been covered with grass, and at slight expense made to look respectable. The chief value of the place in its present condition lies in the fact that it permits to the passer-by, or to the children attending the neighboring

school, a clear view of the harbor. There are few towns in the State that have not some unsightly banks that might be treated in a similar, inexpensive way.

Bates Park is a little reservation of about one-third of an acre, which has been planted with trees and provided with a few seats.

The Town Dock, Cole's Hill, and Pilgrim Wharf have been referred to in previous reports. Mr. Stickney, of Baltimore, mentioned in last year's report, bequeathed \$2,000 to the town of Rowley for the improvement of the common. I was told, too, that he gave a large part of the money for the purchase of Cole's Hill.

About three miles south of Plymouth village, on the road to Sandwich, there is a duck mill, in front of which is a semi-public green, fairly well kept, and planted with trees, which furnishes to the operatives a place of resort similar to some of the corporation grounds of Lowell and Lawrence.

A great deal of land around the Plymouth ponds is being bought up for summer houses. Until within a year or two the purchases have been mainly by Plymouth people; but now outsiders are coming in, especially such as wish to be for a time beyond the intrusion of the telegraph, and yet within easy reach of civilization.

Mr. John J. Russell, of Plymouth, is much interested in the preservation of strips of woods along the roadsides. In a region so sandy as Plymouth such protection is essential to keep the roads passable in dry weather, unless the roads should be of much better construction than any I saw.

BOURNE, SANDWICH, AND MASHPEE.

Concerning Bourne, Sandwich, and Mashpee there is little to add to former reports. The ponds of Sandwich and Mashpee attract people who seek rest and quiet, and the shores of Bourne are thickly dotted with summer cottages. Many of the townspeople appear not to realize that there is danger of their being shut off from the shore. Indeed, all along the South Shore, save in two or three localities, there is such indifference manifested regarding shore rights that one is almost inclined to believe it were better for the control to pass from the present holders to those who will appreciate it more. The chief regret that mingles with the prospect is that the new owners are disposed to insist so strictly on their legal rights. The average city man, who has

owned little or no land at home, seems to take a particular delight in putting up trespass signs the moment he gets the deed to his new estate. One gentleman told me he should like to own a certain place much resorted to, in order, he added, half seriously, that he might put up a notice warning people away.

FALMOUTH.

Owing to the facilities for reaching Falmouth, and to other advantages possessed by the town, practically no land upon the coast remains unoccupied; and except for the landings there are no public holdings upon the shore.

Near the railroad station at Falmouth is a pretty little common containing about an acre. This is all that remains of a much larger tract, once set apart for a training-field and meeting-house lot.

At Woods Holl is a landing containing about thirty-seven hundred square feet. Another landing, somewhat larger, is situated north of the Fish Commission Building. South of Falmouth village is another landing about one hundred feet square, and at West Falmouth is one with a shore frontage of perhaps two hundred feet. The town owns a farm of fifteen or twenty acres just north of Falmouth Heights, and a gravel pit not far from Long Pond containing about an acre.

At Falmouth Heights is a collection of summer cottages grouped around a number of semi-public spaces. Here, too, for some distance the road skirts the beach; but I was told that the public have no rights upon the shore. The unoccupied land along the entire coast of Falmouth is held for speculative purposes.

A local society, the Bathing Beach Association (Mr. Hewins, treasurer), holds five hundred and fifty feet of beach on Vineyard Sound, south of the village. The association consists of twenty-five members, each of whom subscribed to the purchase of the beach, and each of whom received for his subscription a deed for a lot ten feet wide. The remainder of the beach, three hundred feet, belongs to the Bathing Beach Association as a whole, but is regarded as public property, although as yet no use has been made of it. It is the only beach, properly so called, to which the public has access. The constitution of the Beach Association provides that, in case of the dissolution of the association, all its property shall go to the town.

BARNSTABLE.

On the north shore of Barnstable a long peninsula extends eastward, protecting and nearly enclosing the harbor. This peninsula appears to be one of the few extensive beaches which, it seems, it is still possible to preserve to the public. Upon information furnished by Mr. G. A. Hinckley I made search in the town records, and found the following record in regard to this peninsula, which I have transcribed with slight omissions. The Italics are my own :—

March 20, 1731-2. Voted as followeth, viz., that

“Whereas for some years together sundry persons turned horses and neat cattle at large to run and feed upon the Beach or Neck called Sandy Neck *belonging to this town* (Part whereof being Laid out in Lots, and part Laid down & Long since sequestered to the publick use of Sd. Town, principally to accomodate the whaling designs) the turning and feeding of horses and cattle on Sd. Neck as afor sd. was found to be very prejudicial to the Town by the Beech grass being fed short and the Land Trod Loose & thereby blown in upon some pasture Lands, and great parcels of the best meddow in Town & into the harbour . . . and there is great danger that the sd. Beech will be so much lowered that the sea will in some years break in upon the Town over sd. Beech (the only Barrier on that side) beside the great danger of filling up or Ruining the harbour the sd. Beech making one side thereof, for prevention of which Damages the Town passed a vote some years since forbidding horses and cattle feeding at Large on sd. Neck as afore sd. for some considerable time . . . which by Experience was found very beneficial for the ends aforesd. . . .

“Voted that for one year to come that no horses or cattle be allowed to go at large and feed on sd. Neck.” . . .

Year after year I found this vote repeated in varying phraseology, but with unvarying meaning. Men were elected annually to see that cattle were kept off the beach, and the ownership of the town to the beach was constantly affirmed. As indicated in the preamble to the above vote, lots had been assigned upon Sandy Neck to citizens, and lots were subsequently granted to others; but in no single instance was I able to find that any lot had ever been granted running to the northern shore. The water was commonly named as the southern boundary, but never as the northern. The invariable record (so far as I was able to trace it, for some of the records were away being indexed) was that the lots were bounded on the north not by the sea, but by the hills, and the houses on the Neck which one sees from the village of Barnstable are built, in accordance with the terms of these grants, on the inner shore of the Neck. So, unless the title of the town has been impaired

in recent years, there would seem to be no possible doubt as to the public ownership of this shore.

Several years ago a Mr. Cobb bequeathed to the town \$10,000 in money and a number of pieces of land known as the "Cobb woodlots." They are located near Israel's and Upper Gate Ponds, and contain altogether about ninety-three acres.

Barnstable covers so much territory and contains scenery so widely differing in character that it is difficult to give any brief and accurate description of the town. The different villages — Barnstable, Craigville, Centreville, Hyannis, Hyannisport, Osterville, and Cotuit — all have charms of their own. Those on the south side of the cape have most of the summer resort character. At Hyannis land speculation has been active. There is a small reserve here called "Park Square," which once contained a band stand, and is believed to belong to the town; but no one seems to know anything about it. At the turn of the road between Hyannis and Craigville is a neatly planted piece of ground which is cared for by private enterprise. A little of this sort of work adds greatly to the attractiveness of a town. There is a soldiers' monument at Centreville, with a small triangle around it planted rather thickly with trees and shrubs.

There are believed to be five public landings; but of these only two — one at Cotuit and one at East Bay, Osterville — are known to belong to the town.

The Common Fields, marked on some maps, are common in name only. They are located near Blish Point, on the north side of the town. There was once a public landing here for steamers, but it is now a private holding.

YARMOUTH.

The assertion that the town landing on Bass River was sold seems to be an error. The town pound on this river was sold, but two roads leading to the river afford small landing-places. Another road runs to the water's edge at Power's Neck (called Parker's Neck on the State map), and affords a landing-place.

On the western bank of Bass River, at its mouth, summer visitors have bought land, and claim the beach. This is the only good bathing beach within easy reach of the village, and Mr. H. G. Crowell thinks it should be owned by the town.

DENNIS.

There seems to be some doubt in Dennis as to the town's title

to the "Old Whaling Ground." It is a valuable possession, and should not be lightly lost.

The town owns one landing of about forty feet on Bass River, at the point where the river, after running for some distance south-east, turns south-west to reach the sea.

HARWICH.

Harwich has a town farm of about five acres and a landing at Round Cove, East Harwich, with a frontage of nine rods on the water. The town has no rights to the shores of Herring River except by prescription; but the herring committee, I was told, have the right to land fish at any point. There are said to be two or three roads running to the water's edge, and hence affording small landing-places.

At Harwichport there is a little cluster of summer houses called Wychmere; and on the side of the cove opposite these is a piece of land sloping down to the sea, which would make a beautiful common. It would seem that the summer residents of Wychmere should be interested in this.

CHATHAM.

Aside from landing-places the only public ground in Chatham seems to be a small triangle upon which the soldiers' monument is built. The title to this is not perfect; but, in view of its small value and of the use made of it, the question of ownership will probably never be raised.

On the west side of Stage Harbor, or Port Fortune, as it was called by Champlain, are two landings connected by a highway which runs along the shore. The whole of the shore between the two landings is commonly considered public. Another landing at the end of a road on the east side of the harbor is believed to belong to the town. There are three other landings at the ends of roads running to the shore of the cove just north of Chatham Harbor, but only the northernmost of these is known to belong to the town.

Chatham has such an abundance of seashore, perhaps forty miles or more, that there has been thus far no pressure upon it, and probably will not be for some years to come. Yet it would seem the part of wisdom to reserve for the public some of the beaches while they may yet be had for little or nothing. Nauset

Beach, for instance, seems to belong to no one. It would probably cost nothing but a vote in town meeting to acquire it for public use forever. A large part of Monomoy Island was ceded to the United States for a life-saving station. That part of the island north of the life-saving station probably belongs to the town. The burning of the town records in 1827 has given rise to much uncertainty with regard to lands deemed of little value. The by-roads of Chatham are very poor.

BREWSTER.

Brewster is a pleasant little town, with some rather large ponds and numerous hills. There is a pretty Parish Green, and a town landing about two hundred feet long, mentioned in previous reports, from which a line of packets used to sail to Boston.

There are four other landings on Cape Cod Bay at the ends of roads which are believed to belong to the town. The town owns also about three-fourths of an acre around the new town hall and a farm of about ten acres lying near the railroad between Brewster and East Brewster.

ORLEANS.

Orleans has no holdings for public resort, but is pretty well provided with landings. On the west side of the Cape, near Rock Creek, there are two; on Town Cove there are two (one laid out in 1887, the other in 1891); in Nauset Harbor are two (one having been laid out in 1892); and on Pleasant Bay there are three more,—making nine altogether.

Pleasant Bay deserves its name, but is difficult of access, owing to the wretched roads. In Chatham, as in Orleans, Nauset Beach is said to belong to no one. It should be made a public reserve, and probably nothing but a vote of the town would be necessary to bring this about.

WAREHAM.

The only public holding in Wareham is the poor-farm. The area near the church at Wareham Centre, mentioned in Mr. Harrison's first report, is still unimproved. It belonged formerly to the grandmother of the present town clerk, Mr. Fearing. She was an invalid; and, being unable to attend church, she had this area kept clear, in order that she might see the church from her window, and watch the people as they passed in and out. The

present holder insists that, as he has paid taxes for many years on the land, there is no justice in claiming it for the public. Apparently, it is not so much the value of the land as the principle involved that actuates him. If the matter were put in the proper light, he might be found willing to *give* what he refuses to surrender.

Mr. Fearing suggests the purchase by the town of Cromesit Neck. There is said to be good "clamming" there, and it would make a desirable public picnic ground. It is believed the present owners would sell it to the town at a moderate price; and, if the experience of other towns is anything to go by, Wareham should acquire her public ground at once. I have hardly ever been in a town of more beautiful scenery. The irregular coast line opens up a succession of charming views in almost every direction. At Onset Bay in particular every prospect pleases. The camp-ground at Onset, however, is not very judiciously arranged. The lots are small, the houses crowded; and, although some semi-public reservations exist, there is no surety that these will not be sold if the demand shall be sufficient.

MARION.

There are a number of pleasant pine groves in Marion, but the sea views seemed to me inferior to those of the towns on either side. There are no public landings, and there is apparently no desire on the part of the inhabitants to acquire any. Indeed, if I am to trust the impressions I received from conversation with citizens and a town official, I should say the people would much prefer trespassing on the land of others to having any public right upon the shore.

I was told that one man owns fifteen hundred acres of land and nearly seven miles of the Marion shore.

MATTAPOISETT.

The name Mattapoissett is said to signify "Place of Rest," and the town seems not to belie its name. It is a pleasant, quiet place, with good beaches, and many other attractions.

The town owns a very neatly kept bathing beach, about a hundred feet square, near the centre of the village. Some of the bath-houses are free. Others are rented for exclusive use of the lessees at \$3 a year. All are clean and neatly painted. There is another

so-called bathing beach a few hundred feet to the west of this ; but it is at present a mere stone heap, piled with more or less rubbish. The town refused at one time to sell this lot to a Boston gentleman ; and now some of the voters regret the refusal, thinking, doubtless, how much more attractive the house might have been than the present unsightly stone heap. But, if it were to be made as attractive as the other bathing beach, I doubt not that the people would be reconciled to the loss of the house.

Half a mile further west is another shore lot to which the town has a claim. A Mr. Hammond agreed to give to the town a lot one hundred feet square on the shore, provided a road were laid out from the highway to the shore. The road has been partially laid out, and a bond has been given for a deed to the land ; but the railroad company objects to the grade crossing, and a Mr. King, one of the summer residents who owns land here, also objects.

The town owns a farm of about two hundred acres, bordering for about half a mile on Ancoot Cove. It is not, however, likely to be of use for park purposes.

NEW BEDFORD AND FAIRHAVEN.

In New Bedford I was told that the great resort of New Bedford people was Fort Phoenix at Fairhaven. In Fairhaven they told me that the New Bedford users of their bathing beach were to the home patrons as five to one. This, of course, was partly because the people of New Bedford had no adequate place of resort in their own town, but also because of the nearness of the two towns, and because of the many ties that unite them. From all points of view, except the political, they are one community.

When the last report of the Trustees was issued, New Bedford was nearly at the bottom of the list of Massachusetts cities, so far as regards public open spaces. Since then she has made large purchases of land for park purposes ; and at the time of my visit a slight reaction seemed to have set in, which resulted in a waiting policy on the part of the city government. Perhaps too much was attempted at the start. A starving man must be fed judiciously, and New Bedford had been long deprived of this kind of food. However, the city has since elected for mayor a gentleman who was prominent in the park movement ; and I judge that the halt in the work was merely the prelude to an increased activity, and

that New Bedford will before long have as good reason to be proud of her park system as she had formerly to be ashamed of it.

The most important of the purchases are the Herman place, so called, the Martha Spooner estate adjoining, and the John Green estate. The two former, containing together ninety-one acres, were purchased in 1893, at a cost of \$30,000. At the time of the purchase Mr. George F. Bartlett, of the Board of Public Works, offered to the city at cost another estate that would have carried the park to the river. It seems a pity that this offer was refused ; but, doubtless, all was done that the state of public sentiment warranted.

The Herman estate had been the property of a gentleman of wealth and taste, and was improved to such an extent that little needed to be done to make it of immediate service.

The Spooner estate is simply a farm with some woodland, having no apparent connection with the other part of the park. The two estates will no doubt be so treated as to make them a unit. I heard no one object to this purchase, doubtless because it is readily accessible by street-cars, and because a part of it, at least, was immediately available for public enjoyment. At the time of my visit seventy-five happy children were playing about.

The John Green estate, west of the city, has been the subject of some criticism because of its unpromising appearance. It is swampy in one place, is wild, and is not at present so readily accessible as some of the other resorts ; but I have no doubt that in ten years the city will consider itself fortunate in this possession.

A lot containing about an acre, bounded by South Water, River, and Blackmer Streets, has been reserved for a playground. It was badly needed, and is much used ; but it is a disheartening sight at present. A few discouraged-looking men were lounging about, and many dirty children were playing there. Waste paper and rubbish covered the ground. Tenement houses on every side, a liquor saloon, and a police station in suggestive proximity,—“Everything handy,” as the gentleman with me remarked. The strip between the water and the highway at the head of Clark’s Cove belongs to the city. Part of it is the gift of the Howland Mills, a corporation that has done much for its employees, and has given to the city several small pieces of land after having first improved them. The city sewer empties into the sea at this point, which, from an æsthetic point of view,

is unfortunate. The highway just mentioned leads into an eighty-foot driveway which runs all around Clark's Point close to the water. In no case is the strip of land between the road and the water sufficiently wide for a house lot. Only cheap restaurants and cigar shops could find room there. It would be a great misfortune if buildings of such a character should get a foothold on the shore; and I think the city could do no better than to act on a suggestion of Mr. A. B. Drake, Superintendent of Public Works, and widen the highway on the ocean side so as to include everything to the water's edge, as was done at Nahant some years ago.

About sixty acres at the southern end of Clark's Point belong to the United States government, and through the efforts of Hon. Charles S. Randall have been loaned to the city for park purposes. A fort and a light-house occupy a portion of the property. A little to the north of the government property the city owns a farm; and the suggestion has been made that the city acquire the strip between the farm and the fort, and throw the whole tract into one, thus obtaining a park of about two hundred acres for a cash outlay equivalent to the cost of the intermediate strip, or about sixty acres. If this is not done, it is probable that the town farm may be sold before long for house lots, as it is considered rather too valuable for its present use.

The area of the old common has been somewhat reduced by cutting a street across it. It is pretty well cared for, and is well shaded. A small area around the city hall is provided with seats, and is much resorted to. Another small area lies between Hickory, Ward, and Clay Streets. It contains about twenty rods, and was given to the city on condition that a certain road be laid out. It is not attractive in its present condition.

On the other side of the river, in Fairhaven, is Fort Phoenix, a mile nearer the city than Clark's Point, and readily reached by street-cars. On a warm day the cars running over the long, crooked bridge are crowded with New Bedford people going to the fort. The Fairhaven improvement society seems to be particularly energetic. It raised last year \$1,300, of which \$675 was for the purchase of the old guns of the fort. Of the latter sum a large part was contributed by Mr. Warren Delano, a gentleman of Newburg, N.Y., who makes Fairhaven his summer home. This society controls a bathing beach about two hundred feet in length which it has the privilege of buying at any time for a fixed price.

In the mean time it pays interest on this price. There are one hundred bathing-houses. Ten cents is charged for the use of a house, and ten cents additional for a bathing suit. The number of bathers increased from 1,049 in 1884 to 8,394 in 1892,—about five thousand in the latter year being from New Bedford. The profits of the society are expended in improvements.

I was told that the old Indian burial-ground, on Sconticut Neck, is held by the State. A driveway around the Neck has been proposed as a means of developing the region. The Rogers family have done much for Fairhaven.

If I were to venture a suggestion as to the park systems of New Bedford and Fairhaven, it would be that they should be developed in common. In New Bedford the duties of a park commission are assumed by the Board of Public Works, of which, I was told, the mayor and the president of the Common Council are *ex-officio* members. Since these officers are usually changed each year, it is evident that a consistent policy in regard to the parks is next to impossible. It seems to me that it would be well for both New Bedford and Fairhaven to appoint park commissions, the members of which should consult each other, and act in harmony.

New Bedford has made such large purchases of land that it may not be wise at present to acquire more. Yet to a visitor it seems a little strange that, except for the government property at Clark's Point (which cost the city nothing), there is no recognition of the chief claim of the city to distinction. There is nothing in the park system to suggest that the city is famed the world over for its seamen and its fisheries. There is not a foot of shore open to the public save where the United States government owns and where the city sewer empties. To me this seems a serious defect, and one which should be remedied. One way of doing this would be to widen the long bridge crossing the river, as suggested by Mr. Harrison in his first report. This can be done at any time, and will doubtless be required before long by the increasing traffic; but the measures which commend themselves most to me are the following, suggested by people of both communities: first, the immediate acquisition of the strip of land between the water and the driveway around Clark's Point; second, the purchase of an island in the river. Midway between the two towns, and forming a pier for the long bridge connecting them, is Pope's Island, which seems as if made expressly as a resting-place for the people. Here tired workers could come and breathe the air of the sea.

Children could play here to their hearts' content; and there are many children in New Bedford. The island is now partially built upon, but the city could better afford to pay a large price than to lose this opportunity.

I have spoken of the playground on South Water Street. There are large factories in New Bedford, and in consequence there is a large and crowded tenement-house region. The city has grown rapidly in recent years, and, as a result, there is a pitiful lack of places for children to play. The parks at present projected will be a credit to the city and worth all they cost; but the children need playgrounds near at hand. Such playgrounds need not be large. Willis Point, which runs out into the river near the Wamsutta Mills, would make a good one if it could be had at a reasonable price. Half a hundred people were enjoying themselves there on the forenoon that I visited it. "You ought to see it Saturday night!" said a lad to whom I spoke about the matter.

Palmer's Island in the river is a popular resort, and is said to be well managed by the present proprietor. It would be an admirable addition to the park system, but would not be indispensable if Pope's Island were secured.

The roads in New Bedford seemed to me considerably above the average in the State.

DARTMOUTH.

Dartmouth has five public landings. One rather large one, containing an acre and a half, is at Apponogansett. There is one on either side of the east end of the bridge at South Dartmouth, there is a small one at Little River, and one to the north of Slocum's Neck. There is no common. Potter's Grove, an agreeable bit of pine woods, much resorted to by New Bedford people for clam-bakes, is a private holding; but individuals and *small* parties are permitted to use it free of charge.

At Nonquitt several semi-public spaces called parks are reserved by the Land Company. One of these includes a small lily pond. The views are attractive; but there are no trees, and the land is pretty rough. It has been suggested that a boulevard be constructed from Nonquitt to New Bedford. If this should be done, the acquisition of the narrow strip extending southward from South Dartmouth Bridge, between the road and the water, would be desirable.

WESTPORT.

The town of Westport is one of the few in the State that have pursued a generally intelligent policy with reference to their public landings. It is a very large and loosely connected town. There are six landings in charge of landing commissioners. At the head of the river are landings on both sides of the stream, containing about two acres. Part of this is leased for building purposes, and the income serves to maintain the landings in good condition. It has been proposed to lay out part of this as a little park with a band stand. The young men of the town have organized a band, and the concerts which they might give would not interfere with the use of the landing, and might be a pleasing addition to the life of the town.

There are landings on both sides of the bridge at South Westport ; but that on the north side is little used, and is now occupied by the house of a man who pays no rent. There is also a small landing on the inside of the Horseneck Beach, which is very much used. On the outside of the beach is a town landing and watering-place, originally laid out Dec. 13, 1717, eighty-two rods long. In 1851 it was relocated, and stone boundaries were established. It runs from the Dartmouth line westward seventy-eight rods, and comprises a good beach.

Westport furnishes a striking example of the way in which Massachusetts towns have lost the possessions which the original settlers intended to secure to them forever. Originally, a highway four rods wide above high-water mark, and more than a thousand rods long, was laid out "along the beach to the harbor's mouth." In 1886 it was found that several persons had built houses in this highway. In order to save them the expense of removal, the highway was relocated on lower ground behind the houses, and completely out of sight of the ocean. Thus what might have become one of the most magnificent ocean drives in New England is now a little back road running along the edge of a marsh, and losing itself finally in the shifting sand hills which form the background of the splendid beach. At the present time a bridge is being made to connect this beach with Westport Point, and real estate speculation is already begun. It seems to me that the claim of the town to a roadway along the west beach might still be successfully maintained if any one should take an interest in the matter. And even those interested in this property solely from a specula-

tor's point of view must see that, unless such a highway is maintained, there will be no value to any of the back lots; while, with such a highway, the back lots would be nearly equal in value to the others.

FALL RIVER.

It was not thought necessary for the purpose of this report to visit Fall River. It may be mentioned, however, that, in the larger number of deaths among the children during one week last year,—the largest ever known in the city,—there were comparatively few who lived around the public recreation grounds.

FREETOWN.

The Forge Landing in Freetown was bought for a gravel pit, and is in no sense a place for public resort. The Elm Street Park contains about one-third of an acre. There is a town farm of about twenty-seven acres on Assonet Bay, which might some time be valuable for park purposes. The view across the bay here is charming.

BERKELEY.

The town common, given to the town of Berkeley so many years ago by Mr. Gilbert, is in much the same condition as noted in former reports. The town is rich in traditions. Dighton Rock is here, though usually visited from Dighton and Conspiracy Island, where King Philip is said to have planned his campaign against the early settlers. About a hundred rods above Berkeley bridge is the grave of an early settler who was killed by the Indians. A rude stone bears the inscription, "Edward Bobbitt, killed by Indians 1676" (?). South of Dighton Rock is the White Man's Spring, so called. An Indian tradition about this spring is believed by some to be evidence of the visit of the Norsemen.

TAUNTON.

Taunton is a city of villages, and the jealousy between different localities has prevented any adequate action in regard to parks. The "Green" opposite the City Hotel contains a fountain, and is surrounded by an iron fence. It was formerly of irregular shape,

and covered the land on which the court-house now stands. Many years ago, beside the Green, stood a building with a long piazza, supported by knotted posts; and from this the walk on that side of the Green is still called the "knotty walk." Another small common is Church Green, a triangular lot of land on Summer Street, adjoining the Unitarian church. It contains about half an acre, and is well cared for and shaded.

The street railway company recently purchased about twenty-five acres at Scadding's Point on Scadding's Pond, and proposed to make it a place of public resort. They asked the city to widen the street leading to the pond sufficiently to admit of laying double tracks; and an order to this effect was passed by the city government, but it was vetoed by the mayor.

Mill River, which flows through the town, is a very unsightly stream; but the Taunton River is a very pleasant stream, and could easily be made a prime attraction in any comprehensive system of local parks.

At Woodward Springs, the gift to the city of a wealthy gentleman of Wheeling, W. Va., there is a pleasant grove (provided with seats and a swing), a hill, and a low meadow bordered by a lazy little river.

The agricultural grounds, suggested by Hon. C. A. Reed as a suitable location for a park, are about a mile from the town, and may be reached by street railway. In every respect, except accessibility, they are inferior to the region around Scadding's Point.

From numerous conversations with Taunton people I judge that it would be extremely difficult to carry any scheme for a park through the various branches of the city government. The wisest course, in my judgment, would be to accept the Park Act without delay, choose commissioners in whose integrity and ability all classes will have confidence, and then allow them to settle the matter as the best interests of the city seem to demand.

DIGHTON.

Dighton has no public holdings except the landings at the ends of the roads running east and west. These landings are held in common by the towns of Dighton, Rehoboth, and Seekonk, which were formerly united. The famous Dighton Rock is visited from this town, but is within the town limits of Berkeley. The river between Taunton and Dighton is full of quiet beauty.

SOMERSET.

From the Fall River bridge southward there is a narrow strip of land between Taunton River and the road which ought to remain open. It is practically worthless for building purposes, but it affords a very pretty view of the rapidly growing city on the other side of the river.

I could get no definite information in regard to the public landings.

SWANSEA.

Swansea has two landings on Cole's River ; about half an acre — the gift of Mr. Frank Stevens in 1890 — around the town hall, and nothing else so far as I can learn.

On the east side of Lee's River there was, for over two hundred years, a landing which had been laid out at the close of King Philip's War. It was in that part of Swansea which was set off as the town of Somerset, and a few years ago the town of Somerset sold it. The town of Swansea protested, but did nothing more.

Gardiner's Neck, in this town, is an unimproved, treeless region, with fine views of the sea, which is likely at some time to make an attractive suburb for Fall River.

APPENDIX IV.

A SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE SEASHORES OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In general, the sea, harbor, and creek shores of Massachusetts are private property as far as mean low-water mark or as far as one hundred rods from mean high-water mark, if mean low-water mark is more distant.

The parts of the shore which are freely open to the public are:—

First.—The terminations of such public highways as lead to high-water mark.

Second.—The sides of certain public highways which, like the road over Nahant Beach, have been laid out as bounded by the sea.

Third.—Certain “common or public landings” and certain sea-shore “commons” reserved from the common domain by the original commoners or proprietors.

Fourth.—The shores of the so-called Province Lands upon Cape Cod, reserved from the public domain by Plymouth Colony, and inherited by the Province and the Commonwealth.

Fifth.—Certain parts of the shore which have in recent years been made “parks” by the action of State, city, or township authorities.

Lastly, in addition to the right to resort to these special places, the public possesses the general right to traverse “for fishing or fowling,” and, presumably, for mere pleasure, that strip of the shore which extends from mean high-water mark to mean low-water mark, except where the State Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners have, upon petition, allowed the private owners of the fee of this strip to enclose the same or build wharves or buildings on it.

ERRATA.

REPORT, 1892.

On page 18 of the Report of 1892 the Acres of public open space accredited to Worcester should be 364 instead of 1,364; and the Inhabitants per acre of open space should read 232 instead of 62.

On page 18 of the Report of 1892 the line "with the consent of the Park Commission instead of that of the voters" should read "with the consent of the Park Commission and that of the voters."